THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (c) With a view to promote tourism, it has been decided that tourists visas may be made good for multiple entries instead of the existing three entries. Children of foreign nationals of Indian origin below 12 years have been exempted from visa requirement and are legible for grant of non-extendable landing permit for 90 days. These permits are issued by Immigration authorities and are not valid for admission into educational institutions.

**Development of Delhi and other Metropolitan Cities**

310. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money sanctioned for the development of Delhi during the Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans respectively; and

(b) the amount sanctioned for the development of other metropolitan cities for the above periods, city-wise separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Outlays for Metropolitan cities are not fixed separately. Funds for development of these cities flow from various heads of development of Central as well as respective States/ UT Plans. It is therefore, not possible to segregate the amount provided for development of these cities during the Sixth Plan and the Seventh Plan.

**Introduction of Winter Sports to promote Tourism**

311. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce winter sports to promote tourism in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to provide appropriate facilities for winter sports in the country, the Government of India has established the Indian Institute of Skiing & Mountaineering at Gulmarg. This Institute organises snow skiing courses in Gulmarg (J&K), Narkanda (H.P.) and Auli (U.P.) in winter months and water skiing courses at different places in summer months.

**Regional Passport Office in Gujarat**

312. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that passports are not being issued in time even by the Regional passport office in Gujarat particularly in Ahmedabad through applications are made two to three months in advance; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes Sir, there has been some dislocation of rate because of the disturbed situation in that State.

(b) Under the Passport Act, 1967 Passport Issuing Authority has to make enquiries regarding eligibility of the applicant for a passport. These enquiries are in the interest of security of the nation and therefore, unavoidable. The Government of India, therefore issued instructions in December, 1984 not to issue passport in general cases unless and until identity verification reports from the District police authorities and security verification reports from State CID authorities were obtained. The delay involved, therefore is inevita-

ble. The delay in Gujarat has been exacerbated by the recent disturbances caused due to agitation on reservation issue which has affected not only the passport Office but also the work of the police authorities. Passport authorities in Gujarat as elsewhere are under instructions, however, to issue passports within 5 working days after the receipt of the 2 police reports mentioned above. Moreover, in unforeseen and urgent cases like death of a close relative abroad, participation in conference, delegations, need for urgent medical treatment abroad, need to join work or study abroad etc. the Passport Officers have been given powers to issue short-term validity passports without police verifications. Measures to obtain verification reports from the police authorities expeditiously are under consideration of the Government.

**Attempts by Khalistani Protogonists to destroy Air-India Aircraft**

313. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Khalistan terrorists made three attempts within 48 hours a blowing off of aircrafts either owned by Air India, or aircraft carrying Indian passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): Circumstances leading to the crash of Air India flight 182 on 23rd June, 1985 and also the explosion in a cargo container of a Canadian aircraft at Narita airport on the same date are under investigation by competent authorities. Government is fully alive to the various possibilities behind these events and their implications.

No third attempt has come to the notice of the Government, though there was a bomb alert on Air India flight 101 on June 24 when it was due to take off from London to New York. The flight was permitted to proceed after a thorough search of the aircraft.

**High level Panel to review the rural schemes**

314. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high-level panel has been set up by the Planning Commission to review the rural schemes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the panel has submitted its report;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) how the recommendations are going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The Planning Commission have set up a high level committee to review the expecting administrative arrangements for rural development and poverty alleviation programmes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

**Strengthening of the monitoring units in the States**

315. SHRI JAGDISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to strengthen the monitoring units in the State Planning Bodies;

(b) if so, the guidelines sent to different State Governments in this regard; and

(c) the programmes proposed to be implemented for the above purpose?